

Appl. No. 10/713,857
Amdt. Dated May 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 25, 2005

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. 89155.0002
Customer No. 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Minor changes are made to this specification. Claims 4 and 5 are amended. Support for the amendment to claim 4 can be found at p. 16, line 19-p. 17, line 19 of the Applicant's specification. Claims 4-6 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a method for manufacturing a core mold for foam-molding to be used for foaming by steam heating a multitude of pre-expanded beads filled in a mold unit to produce a foam-molded article, provided with a concavo-convex pattern on its mold surface for forming a design pattern on the surface of the foam-molded article, and to the core mold manufactured by such a method. (Applicant's specification, at p. 1, lines 6-12).

SPECIFICATION:

The Examiner objects to the disclosure because the reference to related applications section needs to be updated to include the patent number of the issued patent. In response, the Applicant amended the disclosure to include the patent number of the patent that issued from patent application serial number 10/118,457. Withdrawal of this objection is thus respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

The Examiner objects to claim 5 because it does not start with a capital "A". In response, the Applicant amended claim 5 in the manner suggested by the Office. Withdrawal of this objection is thus respectfully requested.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Pub. No. 2000-108134 ("JP-134"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 4, as amended, is as follows:

A core mold for foam-molding manufactured by a method for manufacturing a core mold for foam-molding provided with a concavo-convex pattern on its mold surface for forming a design pattern on the surface of a foam-molded article, comprising the steps of:

forming a reverse concavo-convex pattern that is reverse of said concavo-convex pattern, on the surface of a core mold making model made of a conductive material having the same shape as said mold surface; and

transferring said reverse concavo-convex pattern by electric discharge machining to said mold surface, so as to form said concavo-convex pattern, wherein said core mold comprising a steam path disposed through a convex portion of said concavo-convex pattern, wherein said mold surface comprises a multitude of protrusions, wherein no dimpled portions were visually recognized to have been formed where the protrusions are not visually recognized to have been formed.

Applicant respectfully submits that JP-134 cannot anticipate claim 1, because JP-134 fails to teach a mold surface comprising a multitude of protrusions, wherein no dimpled portions are visually recognized to have been formed where the protrusions are not visually recognized to have been formed.

JP-134 cannot render claim 4 obvious because JP-134 fails to teach or suggest a mold surface comprising a multitude of protrusions, wherein no dimpled portions

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are visually recognized to have been formed where the protrusions are not visually recognized to have been formed. It is as an aspect of the present invention that having no dimpled portions is indicative of the fact that the design pattern has been transferred so clearly that a form of the pre-expanded beads constituting the foam-molded article does not remain after the foam-molding process. (Applicant's specification, at p. 17, lines 15-19). In contrast, prior art models reveal a large number of dimpled portions, which is a result of the fact that since the design pattern has not been clearly transferred, the form of pre-expanded beads has partly remained even after the foam-molding process. (Applicant's specification, at p. 18, lines 13-19).

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that JP-134 could not have anticipated or rendered obvious claim 4, because JP-134 fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Pub. No. 08-142061 ("JP-061") in view of JP-134. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 4 and its dependent claims 5 and 6 cannot be rendered obvious over JP-134 for the reasons discussed above. JP-061 cannot remedy the defect of JP-134 and is not relied upon by the Office for such. Instead, the Office cites JP-061 for teaching a mold for foam-molding comprising a plurality of adjoining components and a steam path disposed at a joint of said components. JP-061 fails to teach or suggest a mold surface comprising a multitude of protrusions, wherein no dimpled

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portions are visually recognized to have been formed where the protrusions are not visually recognized to have been formed.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references could not have rendered claims 4-6 obvious because the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6809 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: May 25, 2005

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